

Humboldt County Historical Society

Interview with Mr. L.K. Wood
son of one of the first white men in
Humboldt County

Spelling's
checked by
Athen
Nash

Indexed and outlined by Jeanne Bast, 7/20/88

Index Nos.

000 - 0.33

Subject
In May, 1852: Indian troubles. R.C. Buchanan, captain of U.S. Infantry on way to California. Kept on Isthmus nearly 3 weeks by cholera. Capt. U.S. Grant also in outfit commanded by Lt. Edmund Underwood. Under command of Capt. Bliss, son-in-law of General Taylor, the president. (Others named, including Taylor, Lewis C. Hunt) About no men and women died of cholera, only one officer.

0.33 - Six companies sent to Benicia Barracks and then to various posts. Lt. Underwood and company sent to Humboldt Bay in January, 1853 by tug. His wife was only woman present.

0.46 - 0.50 - Harbor very dangerous due to drifting sandbars
0.50 - 0.58 and sunken vessels. Indians were "very troublesome"; murders of white men; troops sent for protection.

0.50 - 0.58 Bucksport was just established back of bluffs. Dr. Clark had office and quarters near bay & bluff.

0.69 - 0.78 - Lt. Underwood & wife used Dr. Clark's stores and office and gave him his meals in exchange. Details on area given.

0.79 - 0.88 - (Commodore) E.V. Underwood, born 3/5/1853 in nearby tent.

0.89 - 0.94 Oct., 1853 Lt. Russell of Ft. Ross (Sacramento Valley) was killed by Indians. Lt. Underwood ordered there to take his place.
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8 0.89-0.94

Dec. 1858, Underwood promoted to captain and ordered back to Ft. Humboldt.

0.95-1.04

Major Ames in command.

1.05-1.10

July, 1861 Capt. Underwood promoted to major in 18th Infantry. Located at Pardue's Ranch until bad weather forced move to Hoopa Valley where post was built and named Fort Gaston.

1.05-1.10 -

Capt. U.S. Grant here (Ft. ~~Gaston~~ ^{Humboldt}) resigned from Army (Colonel Buchanan in command).

1.11-1.27 -

Indian chief ("Coonskin") Colorado was chief when first white settlers arrived in Humboldt Bay. Very friendly with white settlers.

1.28-1.42

June 5, 1863 - A 30-mule ^{team} train loaded with goods attacked & captured by Indians by Oak Camp on the Hoopa Trail. Names of men with mule train given.

1.43-1.72

Army pursued Indian raiders. Description of pursuit, recovery of goods & mules related. Subsequent ambush by Indians.

1.73-2.18

Pursuit of Indians and outcome. Four "squaws" taken prisoner and information re. raiding party obtained. Also account of other Indian raids

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- 2.20 - 2.44 6/20/1863 - Other raids, one near Trinidad described, as well as a subsequent raid.
- 2.49 - 2.69 Captain Osley and Company B of California Mountaineers arrived at Ft. Gaston to take command. Officers named. 6/18/1863
- 2.70 - 2.99 Most Indians left area. Cause not clear. Army controlled those remaining and they were no longer combative.
- 3.00 - 3.25 John A. Fauchell arrived at post. Fired upon during trip to post.
- 3.28 - 3.34 - On June 18, 1863. Details told of Indians living between Trinidad & Ransom issuing warning to whites -
- 3.35 - 3.72 July, 1863 35 pack mule train - Incident near Redwood Creek, supposed by Indian rifle fire - Men named & incident related
- 3.75 - 3.89 July 4, 1888, Mr. Wood recalls a celebration. Cannons fired, etc., because Civil War debts were cleared up & the pay on matches was removed.

cont.

Interview to this point is on 2 tapes. On one of the tapes it continues as indexed on following page (E. Settle 10/88)

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3.98-4.98

First trip into Humboldt Bay in 1849. Trip organized with Josiah Gregg in charge. Started 11/5. Weather bad; many scheduled refused to go because of early snows. People here named who made the trip. Provisions only for 10 days.

Details of crossing South Fork of Trinity.

Indians encountered, passage refused; display of white's guns resulted in Indians allowing passage. Nov. ~~12~~ 13th, provisions gone. Some game found but 2-4 days they went without any food on four different occasions.

Mouth of Little River reached; fish, eel & salmon killed for supper.

12/20 - First discovery of Humboldt Bay by a white landing party. Thence on to what is now Arcata. On Dec. 24th an elk was shot for Christmas dinner.
(Here tape ends abruptly)